
ANNUAL

REPORT

1994

**Alberta
College
of
Optometrists**

INDEX

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alberta College of Optometrists is to ensure that the practice and the promotion of Optometry is conducted in the best interests of the public through the exercise of the regulatory powers granted to the College in the Optometry Profession Act, the Regulations and the By-laws.

1994 - 1995 COUNCIL

Executive Members:

**Dr. G. Lyn Graham, Chairman
Edmonton**

**Dr. Richard E. McCormack, Vice-Chairman
Edmonton**

**Dr. Shawn P. Rooney, Secretary-Treasurer
Edmonton**

Members of Council:

**Dr. Robert B. Erlandson
Lethbridge**

**Dr. Mona Purba
Calgary**

**Dr. Cindy K. Kruschel
Okotoks**

Public Members:

**Dr. Don Hauck
Wainwright**

**Mr. Gary Kropp
Edmonton**

Registrar:

**Dr. Al A. Starko
Edmonton**

Chairman's Report

The Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) is pleased to present its Annual Report to the Government of Alberta.

The mandate of the ACO, as stated in our Mission Statement, is to ensure that the practice of Optometry in Alberta is conducted in the best interest of the public. The ACO has been busy working with Government to ensure that it fulfils its mandate, while acknowledging the spirit of change reflected in current Government philosophy. That spirit of change can be readily seen by the appointment of public members to the ACO's Governing Council, to the Discipline Committee, and to the Practice Review Board. These public members add an important non-optometric perspective to any discussion introduced during Council or committee meetings. As well, the ACO has recently had amendments to the Optometry Profession Act passed into law by the Lieutenant-Governor. These changes have greatly simplified the rules regulating the profession of Optometry.

The ACO has had a very busy year and has worked with Government on a number of different initiatives. The ACO continues to work with Alberta Health to change legislation which would allow optometrists to use specified therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and to remove superficial ocular foreign bodies. As well, the ACO has presented a position paper concerning "Internal Trade Within Canada" to another branch within Alberta Health.

The ACO assisted in organizing a national board examination which will replace the provincial examination process. All new graduates or optometrists in practice in another jurisdiction who wish to become licensed to practice in Canada after 1995 will be required to successfully challenge a national exam as well as undergo a provincial jurisprudence exam. The Universities Co-ordinating Council in Alberta will still review and approve the academic credentials of applicants before the individual is allowed to sit the national exam. This new process will increase portability of license from one province to another.

The ACO also continues to work together with the Claims Department at Alberta Health in order to monitor and investigate irregular billing practices of optometric practitioners.

The ACO has presented its position to Alberta Labour during the initial phase of hearings held by the Health Workforce Rebalancing Committee. The ACO looks forward to the Government's next discussion paper concerning reorganization of health care and recognizes the very positive contribution that Optometry will make to this improved health care model.

The ACO has also been asked to offer an opinion to Alberta Labour regarding the optician's proposal to allow them an expanded scope of practice to include simple sight testing. The ACO feels that the public would be at risk if such a proposal was accepted; and accordingly, will be advising the Government's Eye Care Disciplines Advisory Committee that it cannot support this proposal.

As well as its regular communications with Government, the ACO is continually involved in setting and maintaining standards of practice for the profession in the province. These standards are constantly being re-evaluated and updated by the governing Council in order to properly reflect the changes occurring in the profession's knowledge base. As a result, the ACO's practice reviews are now more intensive; minimum acceptable standards are revised on a regular basis; and, as previously mentioned, licensing requirements are being modified

The ACO takes very seriously the responsibilities it has been given concerning public protection and will continue to improve standards of practice to better serve the people of Alberta.

G. Lyn Graham, O.D.

Registrar's Report

- [a] Membership Statistics
 - [i] Active Members 244
(Male - 205; Female - 39)
 - [ii] Non-Active Members 37
(Male - 25; Female - 12)

- [b] Summary of Complaints

Two formal complaints regarding inappropriate billing practice were dealt with by the ACO Discipline Committee in 1993 and subsequent practitioner appeals to the Discipline Committee findings were concluded in 1994. The Discipline Committee findings were upheld upon all stages of appeal and each optometrist involved was found guilty of unprofessional conduct and both were directed to reconstitute AHCIIP and pay a fine and costs.

Four optometrists were referred to the Discipline committee due to failure to complete mandatory continuing education requirements for the three year period ending December 31st, 1993. Each of the four members was required to pay a fine and each is required to attend continuing education hours by no later than December 31st, 1995 in order to make up the shortfall hours.

In addition to the aforementioned complaints, grievances registered with the Alberta College of Optometrists office were referred to regional Grievance Chairmen located in Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat. Records indicate that the vast majority of grievances were solved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Al A. Starko, O.D.

Discipline Committee

Division Director: Dr. Robert B. Erlandson

Committee Members: Dr. Neil N. Starko, Co-Chairman
Dr. Dennis A. Heimdahl, Co-Chairman
Dr. Margaret M. Penny
Dr. Frances J. Tatebe

Public Member: Mr. David R. Stewart

As directed by the Registrar of the Alberta College of Optometrists, the Discipline Committee conducted four public hearings in 1994.

The hearings were conducted as a result of members who were found to be in default of the required sixty hours of continuing education credit in the three year period January 1st, 1991 to December 31st, 1993, in contravention of Part 3 of the Optometry Profession Act, General Regulation (AB Reg. 388/85).

The members were found guilty of unprofessional conduct and fined accordingly. The disciplined members were also required to pay a pro-rated share of the cost of the hearings.

Neil N. Starko, O.D.
Co-Chairman

Practice Review Board

Division Director: Dr. Robert B. Erlandson

Chairman: Dr. Dennis N. Twerdun

Members: Dr. Gordon Hensel
Dr. Rod A. Huszar
Dr. David D. Koopman
Dr. Alan W. Jones
Dr. Gene A. Edworthy
Dr. Charles W. Klettke
Dr. Brian G. Kelly
Dr. Richard A. Paziuk

Public Member: Mr. David Kerr

The second round of practice reviews are proceeding on schedule for all practitioners in the province. A five year rotation is being implemented so that each practitioner will be reviewed once every five years.

As well, new graduates will be reviewed after they have been in practice for a twelve month period.

A data base will be used at the ACO office to provide current status on the progress of reviews. As a result, accurate assessment of reviews to final disposition will be tracked more efficiently and accurately.

Two formats are used by the PRB members when conducting a review. Practice assessment as well facilities assessment are incorporated during the process of a review.

Dennis N. Twerdun, O.D.
Chairman

Ethics Committee

Division Director: Dr. Richard E. McCormack

Chairman: Dr. Allan A. MacKenzie

Members: Dr. Ken W. Gellatly
Dr. Steven W. Krein
Dr. Dennis A. Heimdahl

The following represents a breakdown of the inquiries and requests dealt with by the Ethics Committee in 1994:

[1]	Media Advertising (In newspapers, newsletters, professional cards, announcements and mailings/mail drops)	14
[2]	New tradenames	12
[3]	Signage (Content and size)	3
[4]	Yellow Page Listings and Display Ads	4

Not all requests were sought for approval; some of the media advertising and yellow page display ads were forwarded to the Ethics Committee from the Registrar.

The Ethics Committee will be reviewing existing advertising guidelines in 1995 and will prepare a new draft for Council approval prior to presenting guidelines to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Allan A. MacKenzie, O.D.
Chairman

Registration Committee

Division Director: Dr. Mona Purba

Chairman: Dr. Laurie L. Newman

Members: Dr. Robert A. DeMara
Dr. Donald B. Martin
Dr. Cindy K. Kruschel

A total of 26 candidates wrote the Registration Exams in June, 1994 administered by the ACO Registration Committee. 25 successfully challenged the entire examination and 1 candidate failed two sections of the exam which would require this individual to resit and pass these sections if he wished to apply for a license to practice in Alberta. One applicant was unsuccessful in a challenge to one section of the 1993 supplemental exam.

Laurie L. Newman, O.D.
Chairperson

Universities Co-ordinating Council

The Universities Co-ordinating Council (UCC) consisted of the following members:

Dr. Benjamin Doz, ACO Representative
Dr. Donald R. LeDrew, ACO Representative
Dr. Al A. Starko, ACO Registrar
Dr. John Kuspira, Academic Representative
Mr. Larry Henderson, Government personnel

The UCC conducted a review of the academic credentials submitted by applicants wishing to write the Alberta Registration Examinations in May of 1994. Twenty-six applicants were approved and granted a Certificate of Approval to sit the ACO registration exams.

**Benjamin Doz, O.D.
ACO Representative**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- to December 31st, 1994

Prepared by

Gardiner, Karbani, Audy & Partners

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

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Gardiner Karbani Audy + Partners



Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Alberta College of Optometrists:

We have audited the balance sheet of Alberta College of Optometrists as at December 31, 1994, and the statements of revenue and expenditures and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the College's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as at December 31, 1994, and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

March 15, 1995
Edmonton, Alberta

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

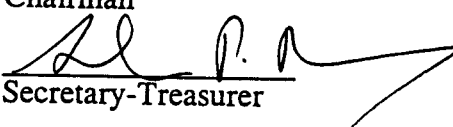
ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 1994

ASSETS		
Current Assets:	1994	1993
Cash	\$	\$
Temporary investments, <i>Note 2</i>	30,170	9,4
Accounts receivable	154,508	85,2
	<u>14,400</u>	<u>-</u>
Total current assets	199,078	94,7
Capital Assets, <i>Note 3</i>	<u>9,923</u>	<u>13,2</u>
	<u>209,001</u>	<u>107,9</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	38,263	16,3
Deferred revenue	<u>28,575</u>	<u>27,6</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>66,838</u>	<u>44,0</u>
SURPLUS		
Balance, beginning of year	63,899	-
Excess of revenue	<u>78,264</u>	<u>63,8</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>142,163</u>	<u>63,8</u>
	<u>209,001</u>	<u>107,9</u>

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL:


Chairman


Secretary-Treasurer

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures For the year Ended December 31, 1994

	1994			
	Actual	Budget	Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)	1993 Actual
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue:				
Member dues	216,150	205,750	10,400	201,491
Professional corporation dues	9,045	8,000	1,045	9,685
Examination and registration fees	13,801	6,000	7,801	10,909
Disciplinary fines and cost recoveries	30,400	-	30,400	-
Interest	4,670	5,000	(330)	7,752
Contribution from Alberta Association of Optometrists, <i>Note 4</i>	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>274,066</u>	<u>224,750</u>	<u>49,316</u>	<u>279,837</u>
Expenditures:				
Administrative and executive, Schedule I	160,807	180,500	19,693	191,341
College committees, Schedule II	26,249	19,050	(7,199)	21,289
Amortization	3,308	3,000	(308)	3,308
Loss on sale of investments	5,438	-	(5,438)	-
	<u>195,802</u>	<u>202,550</u>	<u>6,748</u>	<u>215,938</u>
Excess of revenue	<u>78,264</u>	<u>22,200</u>	<u>56,064</u>	<u>63,899</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Statement of Changes in Financial Position For the year Ended December 31, 1994

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
	\$	\$
CASH PROVIDED FROM (USED IN):		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of revenue	78,264	63,89
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization	<u>3,308</u>	<u>3,30</u>
	81,572	67,20
Net change to other current assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(14,400)	-
Accounts payable	21,865	16,39
Deferred revenue	<u>922</u>	<u>27,64</u>
	<u>89,959</u>	<u>111,24</u>
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,53</u>
INCREASE TO CASH RESOURCES	89,959	94,71
CASH RESOURCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>94,719</u>	<u>-</u>
CASH RESOURCES, END OF YEAR	<u>184,678</u>	<u>94,71</u>
Represented by:		
Cash	30,170	9,44
Temporary investments	<u>154,508</u>	<u>85,27</u>
	<u>184,678</u>	<u>94,71</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year Ended December 31, 1994

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

(a) Incorporation:

The College was incorporated under the Alberta Optometry Profession Act with amendments in force as of July 8, 1992.

(b) Temporary Investments:

Temporary investments are recorded at the lower of cost and quoted market value.

(c) Capital Assets and Amortization:

Capital assets are recorded at cost which does not necessarily represent fair market value.

Amortization of capital assets is recorded using a 20% straight-line method without residual values.

2. TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS:

Temporary investments consist of marketable securities carried at a cost of \$154,508 (1993 - \$85,275) with a quoted market value of \$155,498 (1993 - \$84,338).

3. CAPITAL ASSETS AND ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION:

	1994		1993	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Furniture	6,288	2,516	3,772	5,030
Equipment	4,967	1,986	2,981	3,974
Leaseholds	5,284	2,114	3,170	4,227
	16,539	6,616	9,923	13,231

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year Ended December 31, 1994

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

The College entered into the following transactions with Alberta Association Optometrists, an Association with common membership:

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Revenue:		
Contribution	\$	\$
Interest	-	50,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>9'</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>50,9'</u>

5. BUDGETS:

Budget information, while not forming a part of the audited financial statements, included for information purposes.

6. COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

Certain of the 1993 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for 1994.

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

Detailed Schedule of Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 1994

SCHEDULE I

	1994		Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)	1993 Actual
	Actual	Budget		
Administrative and Executive:	\$	\$	\$	\$
Annual general meeting	6,981	6,000	(981)	5,985
Audit and accounting	3,852	3,000	(852)	3,000
Bank charges	9	100	91	99
Computer maintenance	-	-	-	1,882
Council travel, accommodation and per diem	10,485	15,000	4,515	9,169
Insurance	819	900	81	1,026
Legal fees - general	13,397	-	(13,397)	6,610
Legal fees - disciplinary action	43,494	36,500	(6,994)	65,794
Office supplies	2,385	8,000	5,615	4,262
Postage and courier	3,289	4,000	711	2,626
Printing	2,690	5,000	2,310	3,807
Rent	12,710	13,000	290	11,983
Telephone	3,667	6,000	2,333	5,416
Think Tank	3,287	3,000	(287)	4,878
Wages, benefits and subcontract	<u>53,742</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>26,258</u>	<u>64,804</u>
	<u>160,807</u>	<u>180,500</u>	<u>19,693</u>	<u>191,341</u>

SCHEDULE II

	1994		Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)	1993 Actual
	Actual	Budget		
College Committees:	\$	\$	\$	\$
Communications	1,775	2,000	225	140
Discipline	3,013	2,500	(513)	5,749
Ethics	48	500	452	133
Grievance	-	300	300	-
Legislative	3,278	-	(3,278)	2,877
Practice Review Board	4,075	5,000	925	2,071
Registration	14,060	8,000	(6,060)	10,319
Universities Coordinating Council	-	750	750	-
	<u>26,249</u>	<u>19,050</u>	<u>(7,199)</u>	<u>21,289</u>